



ONLY 144 SWITCHBACKS TO GO...

Did you know that's how many switchbacks are on the trail to McGregor Mountain in Stehekin? The North Cascades is home to some pretty gnarly terrain but those jagged-peaks and remote valleys are what make this place special and worth protecting. With such a unique landscape comes unique volunteer opportunities you won't find anywhere else. Flip through the following pages for inspiration or let us know if you have an idea for a project!

BEST IDEA #3

Become a park STEWARD

Imagine leaving your busy life behind on a rainy Saturday morning sometime in the near future. As you drive along Highway 20, traffic dies down and the clouds begin to break to reveal the freshly snow-capped peaks of the North Cascades.

You follow the directions to a small greenhouse and step out to meet Mike, the volunteer coordinator, and other new faces. It's still early, but your coffee has kicked in by now. You'll be digging up and preparing to transport native plant species, grown from seeds by volunteers earlier in the year. Later, they'll be ferried north up Ross Lake where a summer crew of high school students will plant them along the shore to restore the area to its native wetland habitat. As sweat drips down your dirt-covered arms, your mind begins to grasp the journey these plants will take and how many hands will have carried them to their final destination. Later, after saying goodbye to your new friends, you drive back to the city and imagine these plants heading in the opposite direction, getting ready to put their roots down in their new environment. Since the plants will grow within the boundaries of a protected area, buffered by pristine wilderness, you know your efforts will have a lasting effect. Whether you realize it or not, this connection to your park is what makes you a steward.

But maybe getting dirty is not really your thing. Maybe you're a genius at computers or are an experienced educator. North Cascades National Park Complex has plenty of projects that could always use an extra pair of hands. Volunteers are an integral resource and we depend on them to help achieve the National Park Service mission—to preserve and protect these natural and cultural resources unimpaired for future generations. But it is not just the extra hours that make volunteers so important; those with a personal relationship with the North Cascades return home as lifelong advocates for the continued preservation of this national treasure.

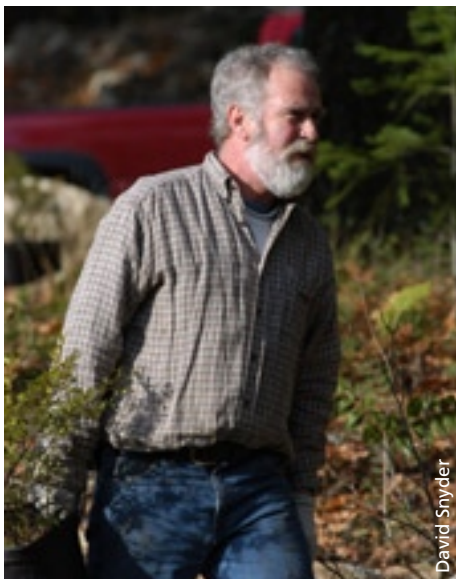
This is why North Cascades National Park Complex is committed to supporting and encouraging volunteer opportunities. Thank you to those who have helped us care for this special place!

EVERY HOUR COUNTS

*In the last five years, North Cascades National Park Complex hosted **1851 volunteers**. Together, they contributed **150,233 hours** of invaluable work.*

*That's **18,779 workdays** or the equivalent of **72 YEARS OF SERVICE!***





David Snyder

Enjoy a visit to the park where recreation, education, and restoration blend as one. Experience the natural splendors of the North Cascades, meet interesting people and contribute to the well-being of the park by becoming a North Cascades National Park VIP (Volunteer-in-Parks).

Listed below are examples of projects, scheduled for 2009, that we need your time, thought and energy to complete. In addition to those listed there are many more opportunities to volunteer in North Cascades National Park. Choose to help in an office, a campground or in the wilderness! Please contact us if one of the opportunities below seems just right for you or if you have questions about other potential opportunities. Many of our volunteer projects will have group size limits. To insure your place and help park staff plan, please sign up in advance for the projects of your choice. **All projects in green are open to the public.**

To inquire about the North Cascades National Park's volunteer program or sign up for a project, **please contact:**

Michael Brondi, Volunteer Coordinator

Michael_Brondi@nps.gov 360-854-7275,

North Cascades West Side Projects - Public

APRIL						
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MAY						
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April 21

Highway 20 Litter Pickup Mosey along Highway 20 before the summer crowds begin whizzing by. Enjoy the camaraderie, tranquility, scenery and wildlife as you retrieve trash discarded by careless humans.

JUNE						
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EarthDay April 22
9am - 3pm

Newhalem Creek Campground Spring Cleaning Celebrate Earth Day by helping prepare the Newhalem Creek Campground and nearby trails for the busy season ahead. Work may include landscaping with native plants and maintenance and improvement of campsites and trails. Please bring a potluck item to share at lunch.

JULY						
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May 1 - 3

Hands to Work: Learning Center Stewardship Weekend North Cascades National Park staff, North Cascades Institute staff and volunteers will work at a variety of projects benefiting the Environmental Learning Center and North Cascades National Park. A \$40 fee covers the cost of food and lodging.

AUGUST						
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July 11
9am - 3pm

Diablo Lake Overlook Plant Restoration Volunteers will help restore a native plant community at the Diablo Lake Overlook on Highway 20. Volunteers and park staff will remove non-native invasive plants in the morning and collect seed from native plants in the area in the afternoon. Volunteers will plant some of the seed immediately and some will be propagated in the park nursery for future use.

SEPTEMBER						
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July 18
August 1
August 22

Colonial Creek Campground Morning Restoration This volunteer opportunity will occur on three Saturdays during the peak camping season at Colonial Creek Campground. Families or individuals at Colonial Creek will be invited to meet with a park representative at 9am on Saturday morning. Volunteers will receive a brief introduction to the park and description of the project. Visitors will then learn about native plants while pulling non-native plants and gathering the seeds of native plants for replanting. A short minute naturalist walk will end the morning.

OCTOBER						
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STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sept 17 - 20

Ross Lake Rendezvous Partner groups are invited to send representatives and members for part or all of this event. Volunteers will camp on Ross Lake and take part in several days of riparian restoration at and near Dry Creek. Park staff will provide transportation on the lake and project supervision. Potential participants include park personnel, North Cascades Institute, Seattle City Light, Wilderness Society, Student Conservation Association, Outward Bound, Boy Scouts of America, EarthCorps, North Cascades Conservation Council, National Parks Conservation Association and Washington Trails Association.

Oct 3

Cascade Pass Vegetation Restoration Volunteers will hike to one of the most beautiful locations in the park and help park staff planting to recover native plant cover. This wilderness site is accessed by a moderately strenuous and remarkably scenic hike. Meet at the Cascade Pass parking lot at 9am, carry plants and tools to the pass and plant until 3pm.

North Cascades Stehekin Area Projects - Public

All Stehekin
dates TBD

Campground Clean-up and Maintenance Volunteers can help park staff improve campgrounds by leveling tables, renovating tent pads and installing new fire grates. Clean, paint and re-label fire hydrant boxes.

Native Plant Restoration Work Help the Resource Management staff collect native seed, remove weeds and work in the historic Buckner Orchard. Volunteers will work 2.5 days (Friday-Sunday noon) and are welcome to stay in park facilities while they recreate Sunday afternoon until Tuesday.

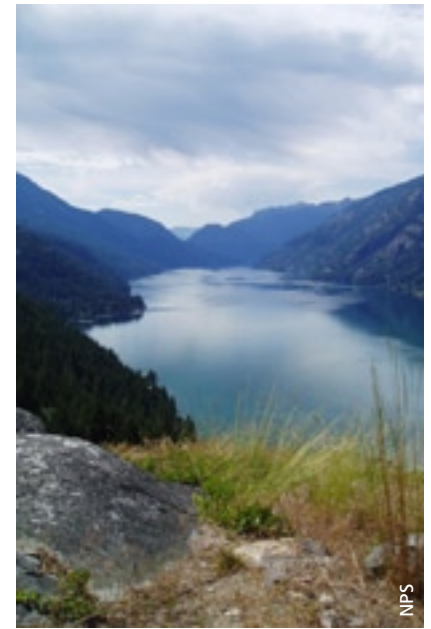
Park Building Spring Cleaning Work with park maintenance staff to protect structures by clearing around building foundations, removing and stacking brush. This will help reduce the fuel load and keep pests away from the buildings.

High Bridge Camp Shelter Roof Repair Help protect the historic Shelter at High Bridge Camp. Volunteers will work with skilled maintenance employees to replace damaged roof frame materials and cedar shingles and shakes.

Bridge Creek Cabin Stove Pipe Replacement Volunteers will work with skilled maintenance employees to replace the stovepipe on this historic ranger cabin. Volunteers must be able to hike the 3 miles from the trailhead to the Bridge Creek Cabin.

Orchard Tractor Shed Help replace an important Buckner Orchard structure. The tractor shed collapsed under the winter snow. Work includes demolition of the building remains, salvage of reusable materials and preparation for construction of the new shed.

The Buckner Orchard Maintenance Weekend During the second half of September, volunteers will help with a wide variety of orchard work that may include non-native plant removal, apple thinning, cleanup and more.



Stehekin is a community in a remote valley at the north end of Lake Chelan in North Cascades National Park Complex. This part of the park can only be accessed by float plane, boat, or trail and has very limited accommodations for visitors.

Because of these logistical challenges we are eager to utilize the help of organized groups who would like to visit the area and add a service work component to their trip. In many cases the park can provide reimbursement for boat transportation and provide bicycles for local transportation and recreation.

If your group would like to help the park in the Stehekin area please examine the potential projects listed here. If one of these projects matches the skills and interest of your group, or if you have another idea about how you can help the National Park Service staff in Stehekin, **please contact:**

Vicki Gempko, Stehekin Volunteer Coordinator
360-854-7365
Vicki_Gempko@nps.gov



Youth Group Stewardship Projects

Boy Scouts Dates to be announced.

Eagle Scout Projects 1 in planning stage, work will be near the North Cascades Visitor Center in Newhalem.

50 Miler Canoe Trips Minimum of 4 in 2009. Park staff will provide information regarding service work on Ross Lake to Boy Scout groups, will meet with them on Ross Lake to introduce them to the park, and demonstrate/lead in service work.

50-Mile Hike Minimum of 2 in 2009. Park staff will provide information regarding service work (primarily brushing) needed on the trails Boy Scout groups hike. A park staff member will arrange to meet the group at a trailhead or in the backcountry, to provide tools (loppers) and instruction regarding the work. Arrangements will be made for the group to return the loppers post trip.

Outward Bound Minimum of 6 groups. Park staff will meet with instructors in May to plan and provide information about service work, then meet with youth groups on Ross Lake to introduce them to the park and demonstrate/lead in service work.

Passages Northwest July 23, August 3

Youth organization dedicated to educating and motivating girls to develop leadership and courage through the integrated exploration of the arts and the natural environment. The program will provide service work on Ross Lake on July 23 and near Newhalem on August 3.

North Cascades Wild June 29 - July 10, July 20 - 31, August 9 - 12

Unique partnership program including North Cascades National Park, North Cascades Institute, Student Conservation Association, and numerous diverse youth. Park staff will provide logistical support and service work for six groups of 8 youths from diverse backgrounds. Work will occur on Ross Lake and adjacent trails. Each trip will include three or more days of service work. Work may include non-native plant removal, campground improvements, fish surveys, trail improvements and restoration.

Other Scheduled Volunteer Events

Retired Chief Petty Officers of Oak Harbor May 1-3

This group will camp at Upper Goodell Creek Campground and assist with a variety of campground maintenance tasks in the Newhalem area.

The National Parks Conservation Association June 6

National Trails Day. National Parks Conservation Association members will camp in Newhalem and work on local trails and other facilities.

The North Cascades Conservation Council July 11, project TBD at the Diablo Lake Overlook.

Washington Trails Association Date to be announced. A Washington Trails Association team will spend three days improving a trail on the west side of the park. Details and dates will be determined by park trails staff and Washington Trails Association representatives.

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association Mid-August, date and location of trail project to be determined.

Other Volunteer Activities in Stehekin in 2009

Washington Trails Association Volunteer Vacation date to be announced.

A Washington Trails Association team will spend three days improving a trail in the Stehekin Area.

American Hiking Society Date to be announced. Early July a group will brush the Company Creek and Devore Creek trails.